

embodiment of the present invention, two different antibodies are used as the detection system. One of the antibodies is specific for the peptide SEQ. ID. NO. 1: GHRPLDK which is part of the amino acid sequence of the β -chain of fibrinogen, located near its amino terminus.

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Assay specificity is achieved by the use of two different antibodies in a two-site, solid-phase enzymometric assay. The more highly specific antibody, which is immobilized to the solid phase consists of a murine monoclonal to a glycine-histidine-arginine-proline-leucine-aspartate-lysine-cysteine (SEQ. ID. NO. 2: GHRPLDKC) octapeptide. The first seven amino acids of this peptide represent an internal sequence within the β -chain of fibrinogen, which is near the amino terminus and is exposed after initial proteolysis (residues 15-21). Chung et al., "Characterization of Complementary Deoxyribonucleic Acid and Genomic Deoxyribonucleic Acid for the β Chain of Human Fibrinogen," *Biochemistry*, 22:3244-3250, (1983). After capture of the proteolytic degradation products of fibrinogen by the immobilized monoclonal antibody, the immune complex is detected by using a highly specific conjugate consisting of polyclonal antifibrinogen antibody labeled with horseradish peroxidase.

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While the peptide SEQ. ID. NO. 1: GHRPLDK has been used in one embodiment of the present invention, it will be clear to those skilled in the art that other internal fibrinogen peptides would also be of use, as would internal peptides of other proteins which are degraded by proteases produced by cancer. In an assay of the present invention a commercially available monoclonal antibody to the peptide SEQ. ID. NO. 2: GHRPLDKC can be used.

Computer Readable Form (CRF) Copy of the Sequence Listing

A copy of a CFR that conforms with 37 CFR 1.821 through 37 CFR 1.825 is included with this response. The Applicants respectfully assert that no new matter has been added by providing the CRF and that the amino acid sequences included therein are identical to those appearing the specification as originally filed.